

but they will aid women in particular, who, as I previously noted, start businesses at twice the rate of men.

ERT: Women's business associations appear to be growing around the world. How can they make a difference? Do they address special needs of business-women that traditional business associations do not?

Mr. DONOHUE: Women's business associations are an invaluable resource for women at all stages of their careers. The networking possibilities alone make them worthwhile. In addition, some associations offer member benefits such as loans and discounts on business products. These benefits, other resources and networking are major draws for women entrepreneurs.

For example, the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) offers options for every phase of a career. Whether a woman is looking for a promotion, career move, her own business or a way to stay active in retirement, ABWA offers a specific membership program tailored to get her on her way.

But remembers, women's business associations and organizations like the Chamber can work together! The Chamber offers conferences and leadership forums to help prepare women for the world of business. And, as I've mentioned before, we also fight for pro-business policies that benefit both men and women.

ERT: In many nations, women-owned businesses are confined to cottage industries and the informal sector. Do you see this changing over time?

Mr. DONOHUE: Yes, I do. As more women in those societies enter the workforce, as they become better educated and as societies become more open, you will see greater numbers of women assume top corporate leadership posts around the world.

ERT: Many women business owners—even the smallest scale entrepreneurs—seek access to global markets and access to potential partners for their goods or services. Are there key ways in which their business associations should be assisting them?

Mr. DONOHUE: I'm very glad you asked that. The scale of international trade today is such that even the smallest of companies, be it an importer or a manufacturer, is operating on a global scale. The US Chamber has long been committed to policies that make it even easier for companies of all sizes to trade. Right now, we have a major international trade education project under way, in which we hope to communicate the benefits of increased trade to the public. By looking beyond our borders, women business owners have an excellent opening to grow their businesses, especially with the advent of information technology, the Internet and e-commerce. At the Chamber, we aim to create an environment so that these companies prosper, and that they take advantage of the opportunities available to them.

ERT: Speaking of technology, how do you foresee the Internet and other information technology boosting the ability of small-scale entrepreneurs—like many women-owned firms—to access international markets?

Mr. DONOHUE: The Internet is one of the most profound inventions of this century. It enables the smallest of small companies to compete with the biggest ones—if they can figure out how to do it.

The Internet confers many advantages on small businesses. For example, small companies can use it to monitor orders and other customer services—and cut costs dramatically. Network connectivity makes it possible for you to hook up your local area network (LAN) directly to the Internet. And a wide-area network (WAN) connection offers multiple simultaneous connections through a dedicated data line, at tremendous savings

over individual modems and standard telephone lines. This makes your existing internal email address work as Internet email addresses, and allows you to set up your own Web server (with your own domain name) to provide volumes of information to existing and potential new customers and to take orders on-line.

The Internet also offers small businesses a much wider consumer base. There are 92 million Internet users in North America. The number of women Internet users jumped by 80% in only nine months, passing the 10 million mark. And 55 million people have shopped on the Web for products ranging from books, computers, clothing, CDs, and videos, to cars, car parts and even houses. Those consumers spent \$12 billion this year, up from \$7 billion last year.

Moreover, the biggest business is . . . business! Companies have spent even more than consumers—about \$43 billion on Internet purchases according to Forrester Research. This year, that figure will likely jump to nearly \$110 billion. It's no wonder, as the University of Texas reported, that the Internet economy generated \$301 billion of revenues in 1998 and created 1.2 million jobs.

In short, to connect with people and businesses in other countries, the Internet can't be beat. And there's nowhere to go but up as more and more nations get wired and go on-line. E-commerce will be the story of the next century.

LEHIGH VALLEY HERO

HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 29, 2000

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. J. Anderson Daub. Mr. Daub, who owns and operates five car dealerships in my district, recently won the prestigious Time Magazine Quality Dealer Award for outstanding performance. This award is the culmination of a lifetime of hard work for Mr. Daub, who began his career washing cars in his father's dealership at the age of twelve. Through hard work and diligence, he learned how to operate his dealerships successfully, with a commitment to quality and service that won him this impressive award.

In addition to his excellence in business, Mr. Daub also gives much of his time back to the community. He is a board member of the Lehigh Valley Easter Seal Society, the State Theatre for the Arts, and the United Way of the Lehigh Valley. In addition, Mr. Daub is president of the Brown-Daub Foundation, which provides educational and social services to thousands of citizens in my district. I applaud Mr. Daub for his professional achievements and his involvement in his community.

IN MEMORY OF MARY M.
BRANNAGAN OF PAWCATUCK,
CONNECTICUT

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 29, 2000

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a very heavy heart to offer a few words in memory of Mary Mullaney Brannagan of

Pawcatuck, Connecticut. Mary was my friend and an outstanding public servant in the southeastern Connecticut for decades. She will be missed by countless members of the community whose lives she touched during her long and meaningful life.

Mary was born in Pawcatuck in 1908 and lived in the same house her entire life. Early in her career, she was a teacher in the business department of Stonington High School until her retirement in the 1950s. Over many years, she served as a clerk in the office of probate judge and for a brief period as judge of probate. She was well-known by everyone in Town Hall. Later in life, she was an active volunteer with the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center, which provides a range of essential services to residents in the community. She was affectionately known as the "daffodil lady" because she sold bouquets of daffodils each year to raise funds for the Center.

Mary was also the pillar of the Democratic party in Stonington for many decades. In this capacity, she helped every Democratic leader—including this member—to understand that our party represents the interest of working Americans who have made this country great. To her final days, she had an acute political sense and understood the pulse of the community better than anyone.

Mr. Speaker, Mary has been widely remembered as a friend, a mentor and a leader. She reached out to every member of the community and had an extended family which is too numerous to count. Everyone who knew her will remember her fondly. I extend my deepest sympathy to her son and daughter. We can take comfort in the fact that Mary Brannagan's memory will endure in Pawcatuck through her many good deeds, years of service and friendships.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 29, 2000

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of honor that I rise to celebrate Black History Month and its 2000 theme—Heritage and Horizons, the African-American Legacy and the Challenges of the 21st century. As I consider this year's theme, I reflect on this great nation's African-American heritage, and anticipate a multitude of future accomplishments in the new millennium.

As we reflect on the great African-American contributions made to our nation's history, I would like to draw your attention to some individuals who were the first in representing the African-American community in Indiana's First Congressional District: William Burke, the first African-American police officer in Gary; Lonnie Bolden, the first African-American firefighter in Gary; Bernard Carter, the first African-American Prosecutor in Lake County; and Rudy Clay, the first African-American State Senator.

These individuals, the trailblazers for our future leaders, had the courage and initiative to set high aspirations, achieve their goals, and become role models for our youth. We must recognize this great African-American heritage, honor our African-American pioneers and celebrate their accomplishments. However, we must stop there. We are at the dawn of a new century.